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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATIONS

New Delhi, the 26th January 1962

No. 10-Pres/62.—The President is pleased to approve the award of the **ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS II**, to the undermentioned personnel for conspicuous gallantry:

- (1) Flight Lieutenant **BALKRISHAN DESOARES (4502)**, G.D.(P).
(Effective date of award—1st May 1961)

On the 1st May 1961 Flt. Lt. Desoares was engaged in a sortie to drop food supplies to an Army detachment on the north-eastern border. While nearing the dropping zone, he noticed that his Dakota was losing height very rapidly due to a down draught. Despite all the corrective actions taken, the aircraft continued to go out of control. Flt. Lt. Desoares, with great presence of mind, skilfully directed the aircraft out of the wooded area and landed it on the snow-covered portion of the hill. On impact, a fuel tank of the aircraft caught fire and a portion of the aircraft disintegrated. Flt. Lt. Desoares though injured managed to extricate himself from the crashed aircraft and pulled his co-pilot out. He then rushed to the rear of the burning aircraft, in utter disregard of his personal safety, to rescue other personnel who might be injured or trapped.

Flt. Lt. Desoares continued to help his comrades and managed to rescue two of the Army ejection personnel. Thereafter he proceeded to recover the bodies of other crew members from the burning aircraft again disregarding his own personal safety.

Due to the psychological state of the survivors and the extent of their injuries, Flt. Lt. Desoares decided to keep his party near the aircraft for the next two days. With hardly any food, water, or warm clothing, he, by his personal example, infused confidence and courage in the survivors which helped them to pass two nights in a blizzard.

On the third day Flt. Lt. Desoares decided to leave the place of the accident and skilfully led the survivors through treacherous mountainous terrain and forests with thick undergrowth to safety.

Throughout the operation, Flt. Lt. Desoares displayed the highest form of leadership and devotion to duty, in keeping with the best traditions of the Air Force. His exemplary action will be a source of inspiration to other pilots engaged in similar missions over difficult terrain:

- (2) Flight Lieutenant RAJ KUMAR MEHTA (4102), G.D.(P)
(Posthumous).

(Effective date of award—9th November 1960)

On 9th November 1960, Flt. Lt. R. K. Mehta was detailed to fly a Gnat aircraft. While coming in to land at Palam airfield his engine flamed out due to a bird entering the intake. Though the engine had flamed out at a low height, Flt. Lt. Mehta did not abandon the aircraft but proceeded to attempt a landing fully aware of the risk to his life. He was not, however, able to make a safe landing and died instantaneously as a result of belated ejection.

Flt. Lt. Mehta was an experienced pilot and he was fully familiar with the Gnat aircraft. He faced the emergency with a remarkable degree of calmness and courage and did not even spare his life in his attempt to save his valuable aircraft. This selfless act of Flt. Lt. Mehta, his devotion to duty and personal courage were in the highest traditions of the Air Force:

- (3) Flying Officer VAIDYANATHAN GANESAN (Aux-30039),
G.D.(P) Auxiliary Air Force. (Posthumous).

(Effective date of award—12th March 1961)

On 12th March 1961, Flying Officer V. Ganesan of the Auxiliary Air Force, along with Flying Officer C. R. Mohan (Aux. A.F.), while on an instrument-flying training exercise in a Harvard aircraft, was faced with an emergency due to excessive vibration of the engine. In spite of corrective action by Flying Officer Ganesan, the aircraft continued to lose height. As captain of the aircraft, he ordered Flying Officer Ram Mohan to abandon the aircraft, which he did. As he was about to follow suit Flying Officer Ganesan noticed a village in the immediate vicinity. Appreciating that the aircraft, if abandoned, would crash in the village and possibly cause death or injuries to a number of innocent people, he stayed back and manoeuvred the aircraft away from the village. In doing this, he was fully aware of the risk to his own life but even so in deliberate disregard of his personal safety he attempted a crash landing away from the village and sacrificed his life.

Flying Officer Ganesan displayed airmanship and courage of a high order and has set a noble tradition of bravery and self-sacrifice for the Auxiliary Air Force.

No. 11-Pres/62.—The President is pleased to approve the award of the ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS III, to the undermentioned personnel for gallantry:

- (1) 4436705 UP/L/Naik TIRATH SINGH, The Sikh Light Infantry.
(Posthumous).

(Effective date of award—26th August 1960)

- (2) No. 4437509 Sepoy DARA SINGH, The Sikh Light Infantry.
(Posthumous).

(Effective date of award—26th August 1960)

On the night of 24/25 August 1960, several hundred hostiles surrounded an Assam Rifles post, succeeded in cutting off its water supply and also destroyed all bridges across the river which winds around the post. An Air Force Dakota engaged in dropping supplies to the post crash-landed nearby. Assam Rifles troops were rushed to the site of the crash to contact the air crew. The track to the site lay over a bridge on the river which had already been destroyed. The river was in heavy spate. Troops tried to cross the river with improvised means but were unsuccessful.

A Rifle Company of a Battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry was ordered to proceed to the site on 26th August 1960 to search for the air crew, and with instructions to construct a bridge. It carried out a reconnaissance of the river-bank for a few miles but could find no suitable place where the river could be forded by troops. As time was running short, No. 4436705 L/Nk. Tirath Singh and No. 4437509 Sepoy Dara Singh volunteered to swim across the dangerous river taking a rope with them to make a base for a suspension bridge.

Both of them courageously battled against the turbulent and treacherous current. Their gallant efforts brought them very near the far bank but just then unfortunately they were caught in a whirlpool and were drowned. Their sacrifice was an act of supreme courage and bravery in the best traditions of the Army:

(3) No. 140096 L/Naik KALU RAI, The Assam Rifles (Posthumous).

(Effective date of award—25th August 1960).

On 25th August 1960 at about 0230 hours, an Assam Rifles post was attacked and besieged by about 500 hostiles. At the time of the attack, L/Naik Kalu Rai was in the family lines at a distance of about 100 yards from the main post. Intense fire was suddenly opened by the hostiles who rushed to within thirty yards of the family lines. It appeared that their intention was to capture the families consisting of seven women and nine children to hold them as hostages.

Seeing that the small number of guards of the area were finding it difficult to check the attack of the hostiles, L/Naik Kalu Rai immediately went to their assistance shouting words of encouragement. His action steadied the guards who stuck to their post till reinforcements arrived. While rushing from one exposed position to another in order to control the situation, L/Naik Kalu Rai was mortally wounded. Inspired by his self-sacrifice and initiative, the men held their positions the whole day, till the families were safely evacuated to the main post in the evening. This commendable deed of daring and great devotion to duty, for which L/Naik Kalu Rai made the supreme sacrifice, was instrumental in saving the women and children at the post:

(4) No. 141222 L/Naik ALBY D'CRUZ, The Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—25th August 1960).

On 25th August 1960 at about 0230 hours an Assam Rifles post was surrounded by about 500 hostiles. The bridges across the river, which were the only means of approaching the post, were destroyed by the hostiles and the place was guarded by them to prevent relief of the post. Throughout the siege, which lasted till 1400 hours on 28th August, the garrison was subjected to intense fire.

L/Naik Alby D'Cruz who was in charge of signal communications, manned the wireless set without any rest and maintained signal communications throughout the critical days of the siege. The Headquarters was thus constantly kept informed of the situation. On the evening of the 25th August 1960, in order to keep his signal communications going L/Naik D'Cruz in utter disregard of his personal safety, crawled thirty yards out of the post to the petrol bunker to bring petrol for the charging engine. He was pinned down outside the stockade by hostile fire from within eighty yards. Being unable to crawl and drag the heavy jerrican, he boldly walked through hostile fire carrying the jerrican till he reached the post.

On 27th August 1960, of the supplies dropped for the garrison a load of ammunition fell outside the stockade. The stock of ammunition in the post had been very much depleted. Again L/Naik Alby D'Cruz volunteered for the task of recovering the box despite the great risk to his life. Armed with only a Kukri he crawled to the site of the ammunition box and cut away the parachute lines. Inspired by his great courage, two others went out to his help and together they succeeded in bringing in the heavy box.

Throughout the siege No. 141222 L/Naik Alby D'Cruz not only maintained the signal communications but also displayed commendable courage, devotion to duty and leadership of a high order.

(5) No. 141252 Rifleman BEVELA LUSHAI, The Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—25th August 1960).

On 25th August 1960 at about 0230 hours an Assam Rifles post was attacked by about 500 hostiles who besieged it till 1400 hours on 28th August.

When the hostile attack started, No. 141252 Rifleman Bevela Lushai was part of the guard defending the family lines, in which there were seven women and nine children, about a hundred yards outside the main post. Intense fire was brought down on the area by the hostiles and when L/Naik Kalu Rai was mortally wounded Rifleman Bevela Lushai, at the risk of his life, crawled out and brought him under cover. In the same action No. 141263 Rifleman Saitunga Lushai was also shot through the thigh. Rifleman Bevela Lushai again at great personal risk under intense hostile fire, carried Rifleman Saitunga Lushai back to the camp. In the evening at 1800 hours with the gallant defence of the family lines put up by the guard of which he was a member, the women and children were safely evacuated to the main post.

Again in the evening of 27th August 1960 he crawled out of the post into the open, to within a few yards of one of the hostile positions, though exposed to hostile fire, and carried to the post along with L/Naik Alby D'Cruz the ammunition box dropped by air which had fallen outside the post.

During the siege 141252 Rifleman Bevela Lushai displayed consistently cool courage and a commendable spirit of self-sacrifice to save other lives.

No. 12-Pres/62.—The President is pleased to approve the award of the ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS III, for gallantry to:—

SHRI JAGDISH LAL.

(Effective date of award—24th September 1958).

On 24th September 1958 some villagers were harvesting their crops on our side of the Cease Fire Line, while a United Nations Field Observer Team was present, when suddenly and without any provocation fire was opened from the other side. Under cover of this fire a mob of about 250 armed villagers from across the Cease Fire Line attacked our civilians and during the hand-to-hand fighting which ensued, the raiders snatched a tommy gun from a police Havildar, and severely injured a police constable and seized his rifle.

In this difficult situation and in complete disregard of his personal safety, 15 year old JAGDISH LAL, son of Naik Gokul Chand of Village Purani Punch, rushed up to the raiders and although he sustained severe lathi injuries, came to grips with the man who was running away with the rifle and after a hand to hand fight wrested the rifle from him.

By this brave action, school boy JAGDISH LAL set an example of patriotism and cool courage of the highest order.

No. 13-Pres/62.—The President is pleased to approve the award of the ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS II, to the undermentioned personnel for conspicuous gallantry:

(1) No. 44149 Subedar MANGAL BAHADUR LIMBU, 4 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—15th June 1961)

On the 15th June 1961 Subedar Mangal Bahadur Limbu, officer Commanding an outpost in Manipur received information that a party of armed hostiles was preparing defensive positions at some distance from his post. The strength of his outpost was much less than that of the hostiles. As any loss of time in waiting for reinforcements would have enabled the hostiles to fortify their defences, he decided to take a patrol of the strength which he could muster the same night. In spite of difficult terrain and very bad weather the patrol covered the distance in good time. In the vicinity of the hostile position, the patrol came under heavy rifle and automatic fire. The hostiles' position was along a crest on the slopes of a hill which dominated the area. Subedar Mangal Bahadur immediately led an assault on the position. The hostiles suddenly opened fire from the right flank. The surprise achieved by this hostile position was likely to create difficulties for the attacking troops. Subedar Mangal Bahadur accompanied by only two men speedily charged this position. With his own fire he killed one hostile and forced the others to flee. Thereafter he supported the main attack in which two hostiles were killed, two apprehended and a number wounded. 3 Rifles, 1 shot-gun and 1 pistol were captured with a large quantity of ammunition.

Subedar Mangal Bahadur Limbu displayed personal courage of a very high order and by his fearless example, quality of leadership and initiative was a source of inspiration to his men throughout this operation.

- (2) No. 80029 Jemadar DAL BAHADUR THAPA, 8 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—3rd May 1961)

On 3rd May 1961 Jemadar Dal Bahadur Thapa and his platoon located some defensive positions of the hostiles on the steep slopes of a thickly wooded ravine. The approaches to these positions were protected with sharp bamboo spikes. The only way of capturing these fortified positions was to launch a frontal attack on the precipitous sides of the ravine. Jemadar Dal Bahadur Thapa crawled forward with one section and came within a few yards of a position, when the hostiles brought intense fire to bear upon his party. Thereupon, Jemadar Thapa, in complete disregard of his life, rushed through heavy hostile fire and threw himself into the hostile position, firing as he moved. His section followed him and the position was captured. Four hostiles were killed and a rifle and a tommy gun were seized in this attack.

Jemadar Dal Bahadur Thapa's conspicuous gallantry and courage in this action was in the highest traditions of the Army.

- (3) No. 61074 Jemadar DAL BAHADUR RANA, 8 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—17th June 1961)

On 17th June 1961 on receipt of information that some hostiles had concentrated in a village, a platoon of Assam Rifles and a platoon of Village Guards under the command of Jemadar Dal Bahadur Rana left for the village. When the party after a march of 6 or 7 hours in torrential rain reached the village very late at night, they learnt that the hostiles had already left. Despite the long and tiring march Jemadar Rana decided to pursue the hostiles immediately.

On nearing the hostiles position at dawn, he organised his force into five groups and positioned them to cover escape routes open to the hostiles. As the groups were moving into their allotted positions the hostiles brought down intense small arms fire on them. A close-quarters battle ensued for half an hour. In the face of heavy fire Jemadar Rana charged the hostiles fiercely with a handful of men. 23 hostiles including a notorious leader were killed. Three rifles, one sten gun, three shot guns and some ammunition were captured.

This success was largely due to the drive, devotion to duty, outstanding leadership and exemplary courage displayed by Jemadar Rana in the face of well planned hostile opposition.

No. 14-Pres/62.—The President is pleased to approve the award of the ASHOKA CHAKRA, CLASS III, to the undermentioned personnel for gallantry:

- (1) Lieutenant-Colonel ROBIN JOSEPH SOLOMON (IC 938), 8 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—26th April 1961)

A large body of hostiles had entrenched themselves in a steep and densely wooded hill interspersed with precipitous ravines. The hostile positions were stockaded and had a fringe of observation posts and the surrounding area had several booby traps.

On 26th April 1961, Lt. Col. R. J. Solomon led a unit of Assam Rifles against this base, personally commanding the three leading platoons. He negotiated the difficult mountain terrain during the night, boldly passed between two mutually supporting hostile positions and reached

the very heart of the hostile defences where he encountered heavy fire. Always in the forefront Lt. Col. Solomon with the help of his men inflicted heavy casualties on the hostiles and completely neutralized their defences.

Thereafter he personally led small patrols, laid ambushes and scoured the area for the hostiles for the next 10 days. This resulted in nine hostile camps being destroyed and a major hostile base being captured complete with equipment.

Lt. Col. Solomon exhibited the highest qualities of leadership, initiative and fighting spirit throughout this operation.

(2) Major BALWANT SINGH (IC-2791) 8 Bn. Assam Rifles

(Effective date of award—4th May 1960)

On 4th May 1960, Major Balwant Singh received information about the location of two hostile camps.

He immediately decided to find the camp and leaving his base after midnight with two platoons under his command laid ambushes in the jungle and succeeded in capturing two hostile runners with documents and killing one.

During subsequent operations, he personally led a platoon which was ambushed by a strong hostile party. Unperturbed he successfully brought his troops out of the ambush, in the process inflicting casualties on the hostile party.

For the next three weeks he laid a number of ambushes in which some hostiles were killed and several wounded. With determination, untiring effort and persistence, he continued to comb the area and located and destroyed at least five major camps. His action completely demoralized the hostiles and forced them to abandon their stronghold.

Major Balwant Singh's dogged perseverance, courage and leadership was a source of inspiration to his men in these operations which were conducted in difficult terrain and severe monsoon conditions.

(3) Captain BHOLA NATH (IC-11327) 12 Bn. Assam Rifles

(Effective date of award—16th March 1961)

In August 1960 Captain Bhola Nath, Sub Wing Commander Moilang, distinguished himself in an attack on a hostile camp, in which the hostiles were completely routed.

In October 1960, three civilian officials were kidnapped by the hostiles. Captain Bhola Nath took charge of the rescue operations. The measures undertaken by him prevented the hostiles from escaping from the valley and led to the rescue of the kidnapped officials.

In March 1961, Captain Bhola Nath led three columns and reached a leading hostile headquarter after a journey of three days, without being noticed by hostiles *en route*. On arrival he saw the hostiles abandoning their positions in a bid to escape into the jungle and led his men in pursuit.

16 hostiles, including some notorious leaders, were killed and some arms, ammunition, equipment and important documents were captured. Throughout the operation, Captain Bhola Nath showed complete disregard for his safety and his inspiring example spurred his men into the successful action.

(4) No. 50670 Jemadar BHIM BAHADUR GURUNG 14 Bn. Assam Rifles

(Effective date of award—25th August 1960)

On 25th August 1960 one of our posts in Kohima was surrounded, attacked and besieged by about 500 hostiles who brought down intense fire from three light machine guns and about eighty rifles. The hostiles came within eighty yards of the post where Jemadar Bhim Bahadur Gurung was in command of an Assam Rifles Platoon.

Though the attack took the men by surprise, Jemadar Bhim Bahadur Gurung immediately rallied his men, held the hostiles at bay and saved the post from being overrun. The men were greatly inspired by his leadership and though inexperienced, tenaciously stuck to their battle positions. While he kept moving from one firing position to another in utter disregard of his personal safety in the face of hostiles fire, exhorting his men and steadying their nerves, he was shot through the eye by a hostile bullet. Bleeding profusely he kept on urging his men until the crisis of the attack passed and he became unconscious.

Throughout the siege he could get no medical attention and very little food and water but all the time he urged his men to stick to their posts and not to worry about him.

Jemadar Bhim Bahadur Gurung's inspiring leadership, cool courage and devotion to duty were in the best traditions of the Army.

(5) No. 5030709 Havildar NAR BAHADUR GURUNG 12 Bn. Assam Rifles

(Effective date of award—19th March 1961)

On 19th March 1961, on receipt of a report of a hostile cache, Havildar Nar Bahadur Gurung of 12 Bn. Assam Rifles, who was temporarily commanding a post, personally led a patrol and by his own initiative and drive recovered two rifles and one shot gun from the hostiles. The hostiles retreated into the jungles. On another occasion he led a column against a hostile camp through thick jungle along elephant tracks. He kept pressing the hostiles relentlessly till full control of the camp was obtained and demoralised the remaining hostiles. The hostiles suffered heavy casualties, 16 killed and 45 wounded. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were also captured. It was primarily due to Hav. Nar Bahadur Gurung's energetic and courageous leadership that his troops put up a sustained fight against the much superior strength of the hostiles till reinforcements arrived.

(6) No. 80074 Havildar GOPAL SINGH GURUNG 8 Bn. Assam Rifles

(Effective date of award—6th May 1960)

Havildar Gopal Singh Gurung led a platoon of 8th Assam Rifles in operation from 4th May 1960 to 31st May 1960, against hostiles in a sector of Tuensang district.

On 6th May 1960, he suddenly came face to face with a small party of hostiles. Without hesitation he charged into them with his leading section and opened fire injuring 2 or 3 of the hostiles and causing them to retreat into the jungle. Thereupon the hostiles opened fire from their main concealed position. Though this was overwhelming, Havildar Gurung stood his ground and contained the hostiles till the patrol was ready to mount an attack. Havildar Gurung's prompt and daring action caused the hostiles to give away their position and defeated their plan to overwhelm the patrol by surprise.

At midday the patrol was again fired upon from very close range. Havildar Gurung once again ordered a charge, as a result of which the hostiles left their positions hurriedly and retreated into the jungle. Two main camps of the hostiles were located and destroyed on 11th and 14th May respectively.

The aggressive spirit of Havildar Gurung throughout the operation was a source of inspiration to his men.

(7) No. 62225 Naik RAM PRASAD LIMBU 6 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—18th June 1961)

No. 62225 Naik Ram Prasad Limbu was section commander of a patrol which was allotted the task of cutting off the escape route on the left flank of about 50 hostiles concentrated in a village. As his section was moving into position at dawn on the 18th June, the hostiles brought down intense small arms fire making any movement extremely risky. Naik Ram Prasad Limbu then noticed a number of hostiles attempting to escape on his flank. Regardless of his own personal safety, Naik Limbu together with No. 62552 L/Naik Risal Singh Pathania, attacked the escaping hostiles, killed 5 of them with his sten gun and captured one rifle and two 12 bore guns. This example of cool courage acted as a spur to his section which disregarding the intense hostile fire, went into action killing as many as 23 hostiles and capturing seven weapons.

(8) No. 62552 L/Naik RISAL SINGH PATHANIA 6 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—18th June 1961)

On 18th June 1961, No. 62552 L/Naik Risal Singh Pathania was detailed with a patrol to deal with a concentration of approximately 50 hostiles in a village. His section was given the task of cutting off the escape route of the hostiles on the left flank. Intense hostile small arms fire was brought to bear on this section when it was moving into position.

L/Naik Risal Singh Pathania, seeing his section commander attack the hostiles, joined him in a hand to hand fight with the hostiles killing 3 of them himself and assisting in the capture of their weapons.

The courage and aggressiveness showed by L/Naik Risal Singh Pathania demoralised the hostiles who were completely routed and contributed in a large measure to the success of this small force in killing 23 hostiles and capturing seven weapons.

(9) No. 81419 Rifleman KEHR SINGH DOMAI 8 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—26th April 1961)

Rifleman Kehr Singh Domai of 8 Assam Rifles was in a platoon commanded by Subedar Major Kharka Bahadur Limbu and took part in the operations which led to the capture of one of the hostile headquarters. The hostile positions were located in a stockaded and almost inaccessible jungle ravine. When the attack on the hostile strong-point was launched, heavy fire from within the stockade pinned down the assaulting party. Rifleman Kehr Singh Domai joined Subedar Major Kharka Bahadur Limbu in charging the position. He knocked down a part of the stockade

and engaged the hostiles, himself killing 2 of them. His accurate fire on active hostile positions enabled his platoon to eventually break through and over-run the defences. Rifleman Domal displayed conspicuous courage and initiative in this action.

(10) No. 63008 Rifleman TARA DUTT JAISI 6 Bn. Assam Rifles.

(Effective date of award—18th June 1961)

On the 18th June 1961 No. 63008 Rifleman Tara Dutt Jaisi was in a patrol detailed to attack a concentration of 50 hostiles located in a village. His section was deputed to watch the right flank. As this section was moving to occupy the allotted position, the hostiles brought down intense small arms fire and under its cover tried to escape through the section post. Rifleman Tara Dutt Jaisi, regardless of his own personal safety, charged the hostiles, killed two of them with his bayonet and captured a sten gun. Rifleman Tara Dutt Jaisi's gallant example was a source of inspiration to his section who attacked the hostiles resolutely and contributed to the success of the action; in which 23 hostiles were killed, and seven weapons captured.

R. K. RAMADHYANI,
Secretary to the President.